President : You see with jacks, one will not be able to extract the tyres.

Trivandrum Thampanoor Valley.

12. ***Mr. T. Krishna Pillai :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have abandoned the reclamation and improvement of the Trivandrum Thampanoor Valley as per the Trivandrum Town Planning Scheme?

Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Irrigation and Miscellaneous*) : No.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know from the honourable member whether Government are aware that construction of buildings or any improvement of a permanent nature is not allowed by the Trivandrum Corporation in the Thampanur Valley on the plea of the Town Planning Scheme?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know whether any steps for the improvement of the Thampanur Valley will be taken up at least in the course of next year or in the near future?

Mr. I. C. Chacko : It is on account of the high cost of the work that it is held up.

Transport buses.

13. ***Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the transport buses, except the Express bus, are provided with tarpaulins ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, the number of such running buses not provided with tarpaulins ;

(*c*) the reasons for not providing tarpaulins for such buses ; and

(*d*) whether the *samans* of the passengers travelling in such buses are spoiled by heavy rains due to the want of tarpaulins?

Mr. E. G. Salter : (*a*) No.

(*b*) 73.

(*c*) Non-availability of materials.

(*d*) A few instances have been reported.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know from the honourable member how long is it since these were not provided with tarpaulins?

Mr. E. G. Salter : It is difficult to give a definite answer, but if there had not been the inability to purchase, we would have been in a different position.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : Cannot we get some substitute

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Mr. E. G. Salter: If the honourable members have any suggestions, the department will consider the matter.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Will not bamboo mats serve the purpose?

Mr. E. G. Salter: Does the honourable member think that it will afford adequate protection against monsoon?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: It is used for thatching. I think it can be substituted if it is used properly.

Mr. A. T. S. Kaderbhoy (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether jacks are not supplied when the lorries are newly bought?

Mr. E. G. Salter: The question does not arise.

Mr. T. W. U. Park (*Travancore Planters*): I wish to refer to the debate which took place on Saturday afternoon regarding certain matter on an honourable member's speech when, in the division which followed, I abstained from voting. It has been borne in upon me that my action on that occasion was capable of being construed as an expression of lack of confidence in the Government of His Highness and in the Head of the Administration. Such interpretation is diametrically opposed to my own convictions and to the views of my constituents, and I should like to make it clear beyond doubt that I as a member of this honourable House, and the interests I represent, have every confidence in His Highness' Government and in the Head of the Administration. I trust that this explanation will remove any possible misunderstanding on the point and will be accepted.

President: I am very glad that Mr. Park has explained his position and the position of the Planting and European interests that he represents in this House so clearly and so frankly and put it beyond the reach of controversy. There is no doubt that the attitude of neutrality adopted by the honourable member was susceptible to the construction that the Planting interests and Mr. Park had no confidence in the Head of the Administration and His Highness' Government. Government were sure that the European and the Planting community in the State do not entertain and in the nature of things, could not entertain, such an idea. I therefore feel relieved that Mr. Park has made his position clear, and I accept the explanation in the spirit in which it was offered and I congratulate Mr. Park on the fairness and frankness which he has displayed.

In view to certain questions and answers that were made yesterday with regard to a particular contract, such interesting and remarkable details have now come to light that,

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in the interests of all contracts and contractors in future, and in the interests of this honourable House, and in the interests of the country, these facts must be placed before the House, and I now proceed to do so.

Among the lump sum offers that were received, the following figures may be noted.

1.	Mallayan Chetty	4.6 lakhs.
2.	Sivaramakrishna Aiyar (and that name may be noted)	4.16 lakhs.
3.	Abdul Salam	3.6 lakhs.
4.	Ramasubramonia Aiyar (brother of Sivaramakrishna Aiyar) ...	3.6 lakhs.
5.	A. Pothen	3.2 lakhs.

There was a person, Kuruvilla Thomas who had offered for all the gates and that was 4.14 lakhs but he withdrew this before the tenders were opened. Therefore, Mr. Chetty's offer was the highest in respect of all the toll-gates put together. After the tenders were opened, Mr. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar wrote this letter and the wording of the letter may be usefully scrutinised. Mr. Sivaramakrishna Aiyar wrote to Government, first of all, on the 20th of July, a letter which is plainly dishonest and one which should not have been written. He wrote: "If for any reason, you consider my tender not competitive, I shall be glad to be given an opportunity at others' rates." A thorough piece of dishonesty because, when tenders are submitted, to tender at others' rates is to deny the right of tendering and to negate the idea of competitive tenders. Not content with that, after the tenders were opened and he had known the result, on the 25th July, a letter was sent which is revealing both in content and in language.

> "I have to bring to your kind notice the following about the tender for the lease of collecting tolls in Travancore for one year from 1st Chingom 1119. My tender is the highest in respect of three tolls. The highest for the individual tolls put together comes to over Rs. 4,80,000. I hope the highest tenders for the individual gates will be accepted.
>
> If for any reason Government should consider the question of giving all the gates to one, I request I be given an opportunity. I am agreeable to revise my rates if Government would consider that proposal."

After knowing the rates quoted by others, he is willing to revise the rates in his tender. Then he goes on with a sting in the tail,

> "In conclusion I request that Travancoreans be encouraged and given a chance of working the tolls in preference to the virtual monopoly system that has been prevailing for years now to the detriment of the State revenues."

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[President.]

This gentleman, so solicitous of "the detriment of the State revenues" quoted through himself for Rs 4.16 lakhs and through his brother for Rs. 3.6 lakhs. So much has the Government been convinced that honourable members of this House has been approached and misled into making suggestions, which were made against the honesty and probity of the Government officers, that Government have come to the conclusion, that no further contract in any department should be given either to this person, or to anybody connected with him, unless he exculpates entirely of the information and the language in which the questions were prompted yesterday.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Karunagapalli Karthigapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): I may now be permitted to make an explanation. If the Dewan's statement means that that gentleman met me and gave that information, I can say definitely that he has not done so. I have not even had the honour of——

President: Order, order. There is no other Travancorean among the tenderers. I do not know whether he is a Travancorean himself. Apparently he must have come from Tinnevelly or other place.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: I want to make it clear that this gentleman did not approach me; I have not had the honour to know him. I have in mind another man, one Velayudhan, who offered the highest. I may say for the information of the House that, that information also I got not from Velayudhan. He offered the highest rates for four tolls.

President: I fully accept the assurance of the honourable member. But I have gone through the papers, and seeing the language that was used in the letter, I came to that conclusion. If I was hasty, I am sorry I was so hasty. But I fully accept the assurance of the honourable member. The only thing is that the honourable member also stated that "though some people here had offered higher rates, soon after knowing this, this Chettiar sent a private letter offering a little more than the other men". No such letter was ever sent.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Will the Chief Engineer please tell me whether Velayudhan offered higher rates?

President: Oh, yes. That is admitted and it was made perfectly clear to the Chief Engineer before returning the tender that the Government would not consider any tender for accepting all the tolls.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I ask the Chief Engineer whether it is not a fact that Travancoreans are kept out as they are not so rich as to—

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Mr. I. C. Chacko: This amount was Rs. 2,150.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Does not the Chief Engineer think that in the aggregate, the Department could collect a larger sum if individual tolls are let out ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Past experience is quite to the contrary.

President: What has happened in the past is that for two years I tried to follow that system. For two years, I had directed the Public Works Department to accept the highest tender and pursue it on that basis. What happened subsequently was that after two months the scheme had broken down. They either did not pay the money or were not able to keep the toll in proper condition and the result was that it had to be re-tendered. It was only after the experience of two years that we have arrived at this system?

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND VII—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai (*Quilon* cum *Kunnattur*): The non-opening of this road is a great impediment for the agriculturists and especially in these days when there are no proper amenities for transport. The agriculturists have to carry manure on head-loads for eight or ten miles, because there is no road for them. Even last time, I pressed this matter with the honourable member; but since then, no provision has yet been made. I am constrained to observe that no heed was paid to this matter, and I request that the second section of the road may be opened at least next year.

Regarding the work in progress mentioned in Branch D, item 153, provision is made for the improvement of a road from Big Bridge, Quilon, leading to Thamarakulam and for the protection of the canal bank. For the year 1119, Rs. 5,000 is included, but from the Administration Report for 1117, I come to understand that the honourable member, the Chief Engineer, had undertaken to spend Rs. 15,000 per year in a five-year programme. Out of an amount of Rs. 75,000, the Chief Engineer wanted to provide Rs. 15,000 per annum and to finish the work within five years. This is the Report :—"The work is being carried on a five-year programme at Rs. 15,000 per annum. The programme for the year could not be completed during the year." But, unfortunately, I am sorry to say that the Chief Engineer has retracted from his undertaking and included only Rs. 5,000 for the next year. If such a low amount is included, I fear whether it will not take fifteen years for the completion of a most important work, especially, a road lying in the midst of the Quilon town. Last month,

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